

IN FOCUS

The official publication of
The Jamaican Canadian
Association

May 1997

Serving the Black & Caribbean Community for 35 Years

JCA car raffle nets \$40,000

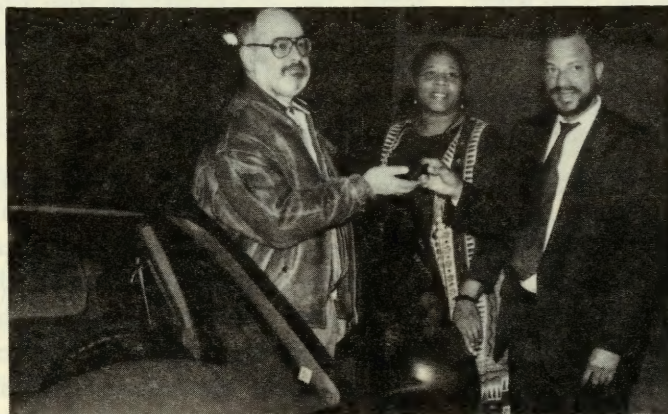
By Billroy Powell

The lucky winner of the grand prize in the JCA Car Raffle, Irjap Iranshahi of Markham, was given the keys to a 1997 Ford Escort, by the JCA president, Herman Stewart, and the association's Executive Director, Deborah Headley.

Winners of other prizes were Sonia Facey of Scarborough who won a return trip for two to Jamaica and Richard Lis of Toronto won a 20" colour TV.

The Car Raffle was the largest fund-raising undertaking by the JCA in its 35 years history as a community organization.

President, Herman Stewart and the



Irjap Iranshahi (left) is the proud new owner of a red 1997 Ford Escort, won in JCA's car raffle. New JCA Executive Director Deborah Headley (centre) looks on as JCA President Herman Stewart presents the car keys.

fund-raising team headed by Patricia (Pat) Williams established a goal of selling 20,000 tickets, which was missed by 8,000 tickets. Notwithstanding, the results were indicative of a successful

venture, which made all those who were associated with the project proud and motivated.

Approximately \$40,000 profit was made from the raffle which will go towards the building fund, the number one priority of the JCA. The Association needs to raise in excess of \$1 million to complete the renovation of its new home located at 995 Arrow.

The raffle was made possible through the JCA obtaining the Car from Northtown Ford at cost price. The airline tickets and the colour TV were donated by Sunflight Holidays and Speedfreight Forwarding respectively. *See also Fundraising report, p. 4*

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, May 25, 1997
2 p.m. to 5 p.m.
JCA Centre
995 Arrow Road

**ELECTION OF
OFFICERS**

Phone (416)746-5772

PUBLIC HEARING

**on the rezoning
of 995 Arrow Rd.**

Wednesday, May 21, 1997,
at 3pm
North York City Hall,
5100 Yonge Street
Committee Rooms
3A and 3B

*Come show your support
for the JCA!*

Inside Highlights

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Stand up and fight, or be run over

Visible minorities and the Black community in particular will be greatly affected by the Mike Harris regime's decision to abandon the people.

As one of the designated groups that requires government intervention to ensure that it receives fair and equal treatment in this society, the Black community will urgently have to decide how it's going to respond to the effects of governments abandonment. Ontario's Neo-Conservative government is gradually removing it-self from its responsibilities to and from within the reach of, the people whom it was elected to serve.

There are those who will agree that this is a good decision because it gives people the freedom to pursue there individual interests without encumbrances. However, the argument can

also be made that freedom without limitations will lead to people infringing upon one another's rights and freedoms, which can have serious consequences i.e. the deterioration of the social fabric of society.

The government is operating in a manner that is swift and unprecendented. It has taken steps that will change the way the province of Ontario does business, radically. Two of the steps that have been taken are: 1st. the elimination of 7 municipal governments and replace them with one "mega" government. 2nd. the reduction of the number of school boards and trustees.

According to a Toronto Star article published on Tuesday, January 14, 1997 the number of trustees in Ontario will be reduced from 1,900 to 700 and their pay will be cut from \$49,000 to \$5,000 per annum. The article quoted the Minister of Education, John Snobelen as having said "the trustees role will be to provide policy direction and support- not to be hands-on day-to-day managers." The way this is seen by many people, is that, there is going to be less government intervention into the daily activities of individuals and communities.

Just in case the Minister is correct, one can't help but to assume that the hands-on day-to-day managers of schools will be principals and vice-principals. This situation raises a lot of concerns for our community since many parent(s) are already frustrated by some decisions made by some principals with regard to their children education under the current structure.

As a community we experienced difficulties when we had an independent body to hold accountable. Can any one imagine what it will be like when this option is taken away from the community? Where there are no enforces of laws and regulations, then it does

not matter if the laws and regulations exist or not.

The government has made its intention known to every one that it does not support substantive equality. This means that the government is not concerned with results in the various spheres of our social and economic lives. They are only concerned with formal equality - same treatment for every one without any consideration for differences among people, for example, women, the disabled and visible minorities who are in many ways at a disadvantage compare to the rest of society.

Under previous governments the Black community had many doors on which to knock to get answers when decisions were made that impacted negatively on the community, despite the fact we didn't always approve of the answers. The community was also

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Jamaican Canadian
Association, 995 Arrow Road
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Letters and submissions welcome. The Editorial Committee reserves the right to edit materials for length.

Nominations

...are being accepted for
the following positions on
the Board of Directors:

First vice-president
Executive Secretary
Membership Chair
Education Chair
Building Chair

**Elections will be held at
the annual general
meeting on
May 25, 1997, 2 p.m.**

Contact:
Elaine Thompson, Chair,
Nominating Committee,
c/o the JCA, (416) 746-5772

Stalwart says farewell to Toronto

By Billroy Powell

The Jamaican Canadian Association paid tribute to one of its former presidents and executive directors, Karl Fuller, who is leaving Toronto after 33 years of service to the Jamaican Canadian Association, the African Canadian Community and Canada in general.

Over 300 people filled the Embers Banquet Hall at 781 Warden Avenue on Sunday, April 20, 1997 where a brunch was held to mark the occasion. Those who were on hand to pay tributes were Mrs. Margarietta St. Juste, Jamaica's Consul General; Mr. Murray W. Chitra, Ontario Civilian Commission on Police Services (OCCPS); Mr. Bromley Armstrong, JCA founding Member and Human Rights Activist; Ms. Phyllis Chen, Friends of the Poor Canada; Mr. Alvin Curling, MPP Scarborough North; Mrs Kamala Jean-Gopie, Past President of the JCA; Mr Robert Kerr, Deputy chief, Metro Toronto Police; Mr. Ted Price, Former Staff Inspector, Metro Toronto Police and Mr. Mel Thompson, Past President JCA.

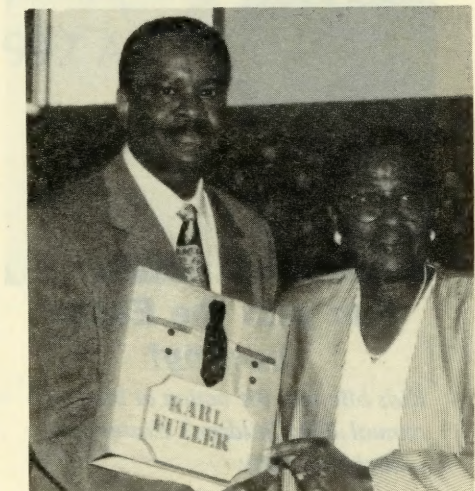
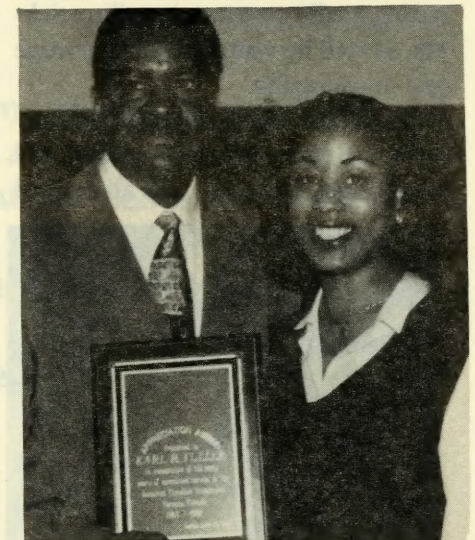
Karl joined the JCA in 1963, one year after the Association was formed. Currently he is the immediate past president and has been a stalwart in the JCA's achievements and progress over the years. His vision and leadership helped to transform the Association from a membership organization to a social service agency. He was instrumental in implementing all of the social services programmes that the JCA runs at present. He was also largely responsible for the JCA's acquisition of its new location. When he became president in 1992, assuming office for him coincided with the burning of the mortgage papers for the 1621 Dupont Street location. Karl then pledged his commitment to see the



Above: Emcee Sandra Whiting (second from left) is surrounded by present and past presidents of the JCA - Herman Stewart, Bromley Armstrong, Miah Bailey, Kamala Jean-Gopie, Roy Williams and the guest of honour, Karl Fuller.

Mid-right: Karl receives a plaque from JCA's ISAP Counsellor Yasmin Thomas.

Bottom right: A commemorative album highlighting Karl's years in the community is presented by Violet Carter.



JCA acquiring a bigger and better location. Four years later JCA was the proud owner of 995 Arrow Road and he was still the president of the Association.

Karl's many years of service transcends the boundaries of the JCA despite his intimate involvement with the Association. Other groups and organizations with which he shared his talent and experience were the Council on Race Relations and Policing, the Social Planning Council of Metro Toronto, Youth Employment Services, Friends of the Poor (Canada) Inc., as well as serving on the Board of Governors of George Brown College.

"Building to serve": A JCA success story

By Pat Williams, Fund-raising Committee Chair

The fund-raising drive to raffle a 1997 Ford Escort ended with a successful event at the OFL auditorium on March 22, 1997.

The group effort at the fund-raising dance was overwhelming: a minimum of eight persons were separating tickets at any time including guests; pick up and delivery of the food and drum; Presidents of the past rolled up their sleeves and flexed their muscles to ensure a successful evening. JCA staff did not hesitate to help and I would like to recognize their contribution.

Our President did a remarkable job from securing the automobile, arranging for the displays at the malls, ensuring media coverage to selling tickets, as well he was always supportive and encouraging.

It was an exciting, stressful, encouraging and very challenging project, and we all enjoy our roles. We all worked



Fun with the Easter bun-ny!

Kids bite into the action at the annual JCA Children's Easter bun-and-cheese party.

very well together although not without some very tiring moments which is not uncommon to the JCA community.

Thanks and recognition

A special note of thanks to **Sunflight Holidays** and **Speedfreight Forwarding** for donating the airline tickets and the colour T.V. respectively which complimented the grand Prize and gave purchasers two more chances of winning a prize.

We would like to recognize Mr. Johnson and members of his staff at **Northtown Ford** (Yonge & Steeles). They made available a car for display at the different malls that we sold tickets from. There was no additional cost to transport the car to/from the display areas, as well, only a small deposit was required to secure the automobile until the prize was drawn. We recommend Northtown Ford to all our members and friends for patronage whenever you are shopping for cars and we look forward to doing business with them again in the future. We would like to thank also the management of the following malls for allowing us to use their space for displays: **Fairview Mall**, **Don Mills**;

Hillcrest Mall, **Richmond Hill**; **Cloverdale Mall**, **Etobicoke**; **Meadowvale Mall**, **Mississauga**; **Yorkdale Mall** and **Scarborough Town Centre**.

Thank you to all our zone captains, ticket agents and supporters who worked very, very hard in helping us to meet our objective as we continue to build to serve. I would like also to thank all the members of the fund-raising committee who worked diligently with me throughout the process.

We (the Committee) are very happy of our achievements, and hope that you are too. "What's next," you ask? the **Walk-A-Thon**, which will kick off in June, and we will be once again soliciting your support. Until then, walk good!

**The Jamaican
Canadian Association
35 Years of Service and
Commitment**

Job and career fair a success

Michelle Allick, ISAP Counsellor

On Friday March 14 and Saturday March 15, the Caribbean Youth Project presented an Employment and Career Fair for youth who have recently arrived from the Caribbean. 30 youth benefitted from the event.

Professionals and small business people took time out of their busy schedules to inform youth about their professions, what they had to study to get into their field, how to start their own business, and tips on how to find a job. Engineering, Graphic Arts, Teaching, Sports, Computers, Marketing, and Music were some of the fields that were represented.

The youth enjoyed themselves and learned a lot about different professions. This event will be planned again for next March. We hope this will become an annual event.

This event was done in partnership with the Jamaican Canadian Association, COSTI, Tropicana, the Jane-Finch Concerned Citizen's Organization, and Harriet Tubman Community Organization.

A Message From the President, Herman Stewart

First year achievements

By Herman Stewart

As we approach the end of my first year as President I can report to you with confidence, that things are moving along very well. As we close out the year we can reflect on some very successful events that has taken place in the JCA.

Fund-raising

As you are aware we had a successful car raffle. I am very proud of the hard work that Pat Williams and the fund-raising committee put into making this endeavour so successful.

The Corporate Fund-raising Committee which is headed by Kamala Jean-Gopie has completed its preliminary work. The committee has every thing in place and is ready to approach the corporations. However, it has to wait until our rezoning application is approved.

Rezoning

Our application was presented to the North York Planning Committee on March 26, 1997. The planners recommended that our application be approved with the understanding that we find 18 additional parking spaces. We are hoping to find the 18 parking spaces before you receive this report. As you are aware we have to overcome some opposition from a few owners in the neighbourhood. We did not get the support of the local councillor. However, we are confident that the majority of councillors and the Mayor are supporting our project.

The next step in the rezoning process is a public meeting which will be held on Wednesday, May 21, 1997, at 3pm, North York City Hall, 5100 Yonge Street, in committee rooms 3A and 3B. We need all our members and friends to come out and support the "cause". Please call the JCA office to confirm your attendance. Renovation of the building will start, as soon as our prop-

erty is rezoned, hopefully this summer.

Policing

As you know the JCA has taken a leadership role in this matter. We publicly condemned the Hugh Dawson killing. We have written to the Solicitor General, the Attorney General, the SIU Director, the chair of the Police Commission and to the Police Chief.

We made a presentation to the Police Commission on April 17, 1997.

Our position is that the Police is not above the law. Therefore all officers should obey the law and corporate with the SIU investigators. We also want the chief to cease and desist from making public pronouncements with regards to the incident because they reflect a bias in favour of the officers involved.

We believe the chief and his officers are there to serve and protect all citizens. We will continue to let our voice be heard because we feel "enough is enough". We are working on the following:

(1) In collaboration with some churches and a number other organizations we would like to have a prayer service at Queen's Park in early June.

(2) We arranged a meeting with the SIU Director for Friday, April 25, 1997. Also your President MET with the Chair of the Police Services Board on Thursday, May 1, 1997.

We are planning to have a public forum in late June at the JCA centre. We will invite the SIU Director, the Chief of Police and the Chair of the Police Services Board to come and hear what our views are.

I am looking forward to a very good and well attended membership meeting on Sunday, May 25, 1997, at 2pm. Because there are many important items on the agenda. See you then and God bless you.

Executive Director hired

By Billroy Powell

Ms. Deborah Headley, a social worker and former teacher of George Brown College, is the new Executive Director of the Jamaican Canadian Association. Ms. Headley was hired in March of 1997 to coordinate and oversee the day to day activities of the Association's social services programmes.

Ms. Headley comes to the JCA with several years of experience in social work, administration and education. She has worked with Black and youth organizations including a Black community centre in Montreal, Cote Des Neiges and Youthdale Treatment Centres LTD.

With her experience and social work background Ms. Headley is an asset to the JCA, which provides programmes in family counselling, immigrant settlement, seniors support, remedial tutoring, career orientation, youth employment and young offenders counselling.

Under her leadership, Ms. Headley wants to increase JCA's services to the community and ensure that the new location at 995 Arrow Road is used effectively to the benefit of the African Canadian Community.

Ms. Headley was born in Middlesex, England. She spent most of her growing up life in Montreal. We welcome Ms. Headley to the JCA.

Join the JCA today.
For community. For
yourself.
Call
(416) 746-5772

Membership Committee Report

By Fred Irving, membership committee chair

The year 1996-97 was filled with excitement and challenges for the membership committee. We set ourselves the goals of reorganizing the membership list and recruit 150 new members to the organization.

At this moment I am happy to inform you that we have installed a new software programme on the computer, simplified the membership list and make the computer more user friendly. I am confident that we can also reach our goal of 150 new members before the Annual General Meeting.

Other activities

During the year we had two membership appreciation nights and in place of what should have been the third, we hosted the Kingston Technical High School Past Students Association for

their annual games and activities. These activities were well attended and people enjoyed themselves.

I was invited to represent the JCA along with over 20 other cultural organizations to meet all levels of government in North York. This was an excellent opportunity to meet and network with other cultural and alumni organizations and place the Association in position to solicit their support if and when we need it.

After some months of inaction the JCA visitation group has been revived and visits are been made on a limited basis this year. However, I would like to reassure you that next year it will perform its duties as a vibrant and active group.

Up-coming events

This year's picnic to be held on July 6th at Kingsbridge Park Pavilion Niagara Falls for more information Please telephone the JCA at (416) 746-5772, Fred Irving, (416) 947-0029, or Barbara Thomas (416) 782-7130.

Reminder

I would like to remind members who have not yet paid their fees for 1996, to do so immediately in order to qualify to vote on May 25th, at the Annual General Meeting.

There are still great challenges ahead

Reminder

Keep your membership dues current. Dues are still \$20 per individual, \$30 per family.

To find out more about the JCA and member activities, please call (416) 746-5772.

for JCA. But our vision for and commitment to building a strong community organization will allow us to overcome all barriers and encumbrances. Thanks to all those who cared and helped to make this year the success it has been.

Promise Yourself

To be so strong that nothing can disturb your peace of mind.

To talk health, happiness and prosperity to every person you meet.

To make all your friends feel there is something in them.

To look at the sunny side of everything and make all your optimism come true.

To think only of the best, to work only for the best and expect only the best.

To be just as enthusiastic about the success of others as you are about your own.

To forget the mistakes of the past and press on to the greater achievements of the future.

To wear a cheerful countenance at all times, and give every living creature you meet a smile.

To give so much time to the improvement of yourself that you have no time to criticize others.

To be too large for worry, too noble to anger, too strong for fear and too happy to permit the presence of trouble.

Submitted by Fred Irving

ISAP: the year in retrospect

By Yasmin Thomas

The Immigrant Settlement & Adaptation Program (ISAP), offers services to Caribbean newcomers who are landed immigrants, or who have a work/study permit. Services are delivered to individuals, groups (families) through direct contact and over the telephone. Also workshops are frequently organized to disseminate general information.

Our services include; completion of immigration forms, information and referral, employment preparation, advocacy, and family reunification counselling. Over the past year the service most sought after is employment; people seek-

ing assistance with resumes preparation, job search counselling, interview preparation, and placements in employment training programs.

To effectively respond to the newcomer's need for comprehensive job search training, I continue to attend various professional development workshops, and closely observe market trends.

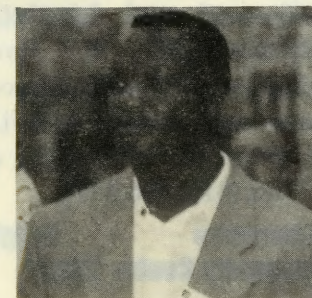
ISAP services delivered in the schools, focus on Caribbean newcomer youth/children and their adjustment to school culture, and family life. For the past two school years, I have had the pleasure of working in York Humber High School, City of York. I facilitate two groups of young people, majority

males, and have participated in their personal growth and settlement adjustment. According to the participants at York Humber High School, and the faculty, the ISAP school program has been and continues to be a success in achieving its objectives.

The future for ISAP is uncertain because of government spending cuts, however, we continue to provide quality service to our clients as well as making sure they have access to available resources pertinent to their adjustment to the Canadian society.

For more information on the ISAP program, please contact Yasmin Thomas at (416) 746-5772.

Staff Profile



Robert Small

I am the new ISAP counsellor working from the JCA Scarborough offices at Porter Collegiate and Malvern Resource Centre.

My responsibilities include providing immigrant settlement counselling to individuals and families and working closely with newly arrived students in a number of high schools in the municipality.

My previous experience includes working with the Jobs Ontario Youth Programme as a youth employment counsellor, at Tropicana Community

Services, Operation Spring Board and Malvern Employment Training Centre. I also do art work and I have been producing Black History Month Posters.

I am happy to be a member of the JCA staff and I hope that my knowledge, skills and experience will be an asset to the agency by providing quality service to the community.

Graduated from the university Windsor I have a degree in Sociology and a certificate in Criminology.

While performing my job as an ISAP counsellor in such schools in Scarborough as Timothy Eaton, W. A. Porter and Lester Pearson Collegiate, I realized that all students face similar problems. There is a lack of confidence in their academic ability, decisiveness, as well as just being unaware of what they wish to pursue as career goals. In other words they are having similar experiences to those I had when I was their age.

My counselling sessions, therefore, are indicative of my needs when I was their age and what are the require-

ments of the newly arrived immigrants to Canada. In the sessions the students learn to prepare resumes, they receive tutoring in math, English and science, gender roles and Black history are discussed among other relevant and timely topics.

The difficulties that these students face can be contributed to them being new immigrants and to the natural trials of the typical Canadian teenager. My job is to ensure that they endure these trials to eventually embrace the triumphs to be found in their future with confidence

The JCA Violence Against Women Program

Services free and confidential. Immediate appointments.

Contact Rita McLean 746-5772

Give to Hugh Dawson fund

The JCA launched an account with a \$200 contribution.

Members of the community are urged to make contributions to the fund. It will help to defray the cost of the funeral and pay legal fees.

Call the JCA to make your contribution...

Summer Calendar

Walk-A-Thon June 1
Annual Picnic July 6
Independence Flag-raising
& Church Service .. Aug. 3
Independence Dinner
& Dance Aug. 9

Caribbean-Canadian Seniors

995 Arrow Road

Tues. & Thurs.

11 a.m.- 4 p.m.

Our activities include:
arts and crafts, choral group,
discussions, seminars and
field trips.

**Come and meet people who
will treat you like family and a
friend.**

**For more information, call
us at 746-5772.**

Phone matters

By Alton Telfer, 2nd Vice-President

Did you know that the area code 809 for Jamaica will be changed as of July 1st 1997? The new code will be 876. Easy to remember, just count down from 8 to 6.

Since we are on the topic of telephone, I would like to raise a concern with you. It relates to the rate Bell Canada charges us to make telephone calls to Jamaica in comparison to other countries especially those that are two and three times further away from Canada. Example

Regular for the first minute:

Jamaica - \$2.36

Japan - \$2.15

Italy - \$2.03

Hong Kong - \$0.79

France - \$1.28

United Kingdom - \$1.05

Guyana - \$1.88

Trinidad - \$2.25

To add insult to injury we are not privileged with the economy period like other countries, where there is a two third discount. We keep the lines to Jamaica busy, so the argument could not be volume. We are also much closer to Canada so it could not be distance. To get some answers we should start a letter writing campaign to the President of Bell Canada. I would like to get your opinion on this issue.

The Jamaican Canadian Association

Services to Ontario's Black and Caribbean community for over 35 years. Services for youth, seniors and women. Volunteers always welcomed and appreciated.

Head Office: 995 Arrow Road, North York, Ontario M9M 2Z5. Telephone: (416) 746-5772; fax (416) 746-7035.

Caribbean Youth and Family Services: 2065 Finch Ave W. #412, Downsview Ontario M3N 2V7. Telephone: (416) 740-1558; fax (416) 740-3918.

Scarborough Immigrant Settlement and Adaptation Program (ISAP): W.I. Porter Collegiate, 40 Fairfax Crescent, Scarborough, Ontario M1L 1Z9. Telephone: (416) 751-2031, ext. 223; fax (416) 396-3371.

Lawrence Heights Community Centre (ISAP):

5 Replin Rd., Toronto, Ontario, M6A 2M8. Tel: (416) 785-7920.

Don't move

...without telling us your new address!

Community must join fight against cuts

continued from page 2

very critical of the previous government when it didn't go far enough when it had taken actions to ameliorate conditions for the community i.e. employment equity. Yet the government of the day is dismantling the social infrastructure of Ontario, which will have adverse and devastating long term effects on all Ontarians and the Black community has chosen to be silent as if it concurs with the government's agenda.

There are many organized protests and meetings in communities where it's members reside but the members choose to be absent from these events. It is imperative that all Ontarians join together and pressure the government to slow down with the implementation of its agenda.

The Black community is very vulnerable to economic and social changes of any kind because of its limited resources. Therefore, changes that are as quick as the ones being carried out by the government will have serious consequence for the community. Our options are always limited. Today there are two available to the community; it can either stand up and be counted among the other groups or lie down and be run over, the choice is for the community to make.

The Black community is very vul-